

August 16, 2002

Public Notice for Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 254, Post Mile 40.06 Culvert Rehabilitation Project
Humboldt County**

On June 20, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for the State Route 254, Post Mile 40.06 Culvert Rehabilitation Project in Humboldt County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with rehabilitating a culvert and a 15,750 ft³ eroded cavity surrounding the culvert.

The proposed project is located on State Route 254, Post Mile 40.06, Humboldt County. A culvert carrying the unnamed tributary beneath State Route 254 has separated, causing the adjacent road fill to erode and undermine the pavement. Any further erosion will encroach upon the traveled portion of the southbound lane and create an imminent threat to life and property.

Damaged sections of the culvert and some downed trees and small shrubs will be removed from the area. One hundred linear feet of plastic pipe will be inserted through the existing culvert. The liner will extend from the existing culvert inlet through the culvert and out thirty feet beyond the point of separation. Five hundred-fifty cubic yards of fill will be imported from another slide site. A small bulldozer will be used to place and compact the fill material. Twelve cubic yards of Rock Energy Protection will be placed at the culvert outlet.

The nearest receiving water is an unnamed tributary to Chad Creek that is located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00. The unnamed stream is seasonal and will be dry during the construction. There is no evidence that threatened or endangered species will be affected by the construction. No living trees greater than twelve inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) will be removed.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Kirsten James at jamek@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.